

**WILDLAND FIRE DECISION DOCUMENT
FOR THE
ELK PARK FIRE
MT-LCF-001056**

INTENT

It is the intention of the affected agencies to collaborate, cooperate, and work together on the fire. The goal of this document is to outline the joint and agency specific responsibilities and decisions reached between **Meagher County, Montana Department of Natural Resources (MTDNRC) Central Land Office**, and the **United States Forest Service (USFS) Lewis and Clark National Forest**. It will be used, in conjunction with the delegation of authority, to provide sound guidance and direction to the assigned Incident Management Organization.

This decision document covers the period of time from 8/25/2011 (incident start) to 9/1/2011 (suppression strategy met).

FIRE DETAILS

General Information

Fire Name: Elk Park
Fire Location (legal description): T12N, R4E, Section 2
Fire Start Date/Time: 8/25/2011
Fire Numbers by Protection Agency: USFS – P1GCW8
MTDNRC – 871003

Protecting Agencies Strategies

Fire Situation Description: see attached map for fire area and areas of protection responsibility.

Unified Command with USFS and Meagher County:

ICs: Mark Hamlen & Rick Siedlitz

The strategy for the entire incident will be to fully suppress the fire and limit spread to surrounding private land.

Incident Objectives

- Provide for the safety of all incident personnel and the public in the execution of all incident operations.
- In the event the fire burns into areas with structures, the incident priorities will be:
 1. Life safety (evacuations and access restrictions)
 2. Structure protection
 3. Fire suppression

- Meagher County will focus on the structure/infrastructure protection actions.
- The Incident Management Organization will focus on fire suppression with operational coordination between the tactically deployed resources.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Fire Protection Responsibilities

Does the fire area, or any mitigation actions taken, affect more than 1 agency's protection responsibility? Yes X No

Entity & Protection Area Description	Wildland Fire Responsibility (Y or N)	Structure Protection Responsibility (Y or N)	Structure Suppression Responsibility (Y or N)
US Forest Service Area Description:	Yes	Yes	No
Montana Department of Natural Resources via county assist response	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meagher County Area Description:	Yes	Yes	Yes

Initial Attack Responsibilities

Meagher County and the US Forest Service have initial attack responsibilities for this incident and both entities responded. No additional IA responsibilities were delegated to any other agency.

Other Responsibilities

Entity & Jurisdictional Area Description	Evacuation Responsibility (Y or N)	Road Responsibility (Y or N)	Search & Rescue Responsibility (Y or N)
US Forest Service – L&C	N	N	N
MT DNRC - CLO	N	N	N
Meagher County	Y	Y	Y

Summary of Responsibilities

The DNRC Central Land Office has wildland fire direct protection responsibilities within their recognized protection boundaries. Meagher County has jurisdictional responsibility within their County boundaries for wildland fire, structure protection, and structure fire suppression on private lands, and structure/infrastructure protection. The Lewis and Clark National Forest has the responsibility for the evacuation of their administrative facilities and recreation sites. The Meagher County Sheriff has the responsibility for all other evacuations.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Summary of actions taken on the Elk Park fire:

The Elk Park fire started 8/25/11 evening from lightning strike. The USFS and Meagher County responded in initial attack. The ignition point was close to both entities' boundary and was undetermined in IA, making ownership of the incident initially questionable. However, both agencies' were affected and therefore took actions concurrently and cooperatively. Unified command was formed and the point of origin later found to be just on USFS lands.

Full suppression actions were taken with the emphasis being on limiting spread and impact on private lands. Unified command ICs were Rick Siedlitz and Mark Hamlen. Suppression actions were most active the following day, 8/26/2011.

Resources were ordered through normal dispatch procedures for all resources except county IA response.

The collective decisions made regarding this fire are:

Meagher County requested MT DNRC county assist the evening of 8/26/2011. MT DNRC will provide financial assistance to Meagher County beginning at 1200 8/26/2011.

- Meagher County will be financially responsible for their resources for the times prior to DNRC assistance: 8/25/2011 and until 1200 8/26/2011. MT DNRC and Meagher County will determine internally how this responsibility will be calculated.
- MT DNRC will be financially responsible for a percentage of the cost based on an acreage split for all resources past 1200 8/26/2011 to completion of the incident.
- US Forest Service will be financially responsible for USFS resources and all non-county resources through 1200 8/26/2011 and a percentage of all costs thereon based on an acreage split.

COST ACCOUNTING

It has been agreed by all Agencies that costs will be shared for this fire on an acreage split as defined in the attached cost share agreement.

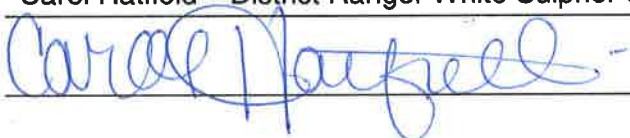
PRINCIPAL CONTACTS


Title:	Name:	Agency/Organization:
Agency Line Officer	Carol Hatfield	US Forest Service – L&C
Agency Administrative Rep	Lily Huskey	US Forest Service – L&C
Agency Line Officer	Garry Williams	MT DNRC - CLO
Agency Representative	Greg Archie	MT DNRC - CLO
Fire Chief	Rick Siedlitz	Meagher County

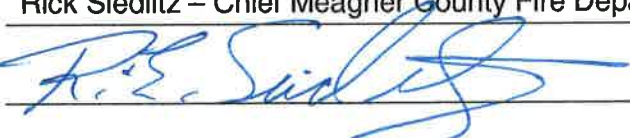
ADDENDUMS TO THIS DOCUMENT

- Appendix A - Map of Fire Area
- Appendix B - Map of Protection Responsibilities
- Appendix C - Cost Share Agreement

SIGNATURES OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

Agency Name: USFS
Name and Title: Carol Hatfield – District Ranger White Sulpher Springs
Signature and Date: 

Agency Name: MT DNRC
Name and Title: Garry Williams – Area Manager Central Land Office
Signature and Date:  6/8/12

Agency Name: Meagher County
Name and Title: Rick Siedlitz – Chief Meagher County Fire Department
Signature and Date: 



COST SHARE AGREEMENT

Between the

**Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – Central Land Office,
Meagher County,
and United States Forest Service – Lewis and Clark National Forest**

This cost share agreement is between the agencies identified above, as negotiated for the following incident in accordance with the 2011-2015 Statewide Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement #11-FI-110156000-006. The purpose of this agreement is to allocate financial responsibility as outlined in the Elk Park Fire Decision Document and to describe the cost division.

General Incident Information:

Incident Name:	Elk Park		
Incident Start Date:	8/25/2011		
Origin:	USFS		
Township: 12N	Range: 5E	Section: 2	
Estimated Size: 600 acres	Acres at the time of this agreement: 600 acres		
Incident Cause:	Lightning		

Incident Numbers by Protection Agency:

Agency	Incident #	Accounting Code
USFS	MT-LCF-001056	P1GCW8
MT DNRC/Meagher County		871003

Cost Share Period: This agreement becomes effective on the date indicated below and will remain in effect until amended or terminated.

State date/time: 8/25/2011
End date/time: 9/1/2011 – suppression strategy attained
10/18/2011 – fire declared out

Other conditions relative to this agreement:

1. Responsibility for tort claim costs will not be a part of this agreement. Responsibility for these costs will be determined outside this agreement.
2. Costs for accountable, sensitive, and durable property purchased by each agency will be charged directly to that agency and will not be shared.
3. Non-suppression rehabilitation costs are the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency and will not be shared.
4. Each agency will bill for their costs as outlined in the 2011-2015 Cooperative Fire Agreement billing procedures.

Cost Share Methodology:

Costs will be shared based on jurisdictional responsibility and acreage split. Meagher County will be financially responsible for county resources and MT DNRC and Meagher County will determine specific resources' cost.



DNRC will be financially responsible for a percentage of costs based on ownership and county resources past point of County Assist request and approval, which occurred 8/26/2011 at 1200 as negotiated with Meagher County.

USFS will be financially responsible for a percentage of costs based on ownership and USFS resources assigned for the first operational period and up to 8/26/2011 at 1200.

The DNRC and USFS will build in a percentage curve based on an estimate of resources on scene prior to approved county assist, fulfilling the USFS' financial obligation to pay for USFS initial attack resources. Meagher County will assume costs for their initial attack resources as negotiated with DNRC.

• **Curve determined by below formula as calculated by I-Suite:**

$$\% = \frac{(\text{Cost of FS \& FS ordered resources on scene 8/25 \& 8/26 through 1200})}{(\text{Total cost of incident from I-Suite})}$$

$$3.45\% = \frac{\$23,400}{\$677,000}$$

Final Agency Apportionment: To be determined based on agency transaction registers

1. Federal Share:

USFS acres	% of total	Curve	Total %
282	47%	+3.45%	50.45

2. MT DNRC Share :

private acres	% of total	Curve	Total %
318	53%	-3.45%	49.55

Principal Contacts:

The following personnel are the principal contacts:

Title:	Name:	Agency:
Agency Administrator	Carol Hatfield	USFS – L&C
Agency Administrator	Garry Williams	MT DNRC – CLO
Agency Representative	Greg Archie	MT DNRC – CLO
Incident Business Advisor(s)	Lily Huskey	USFS – L&C
Incident Commander(s)	Mark Hamlen	USFS – L&C
	Rick Siedlitz	Meagher County



Signatures of Authorized Personnel & Attachments:

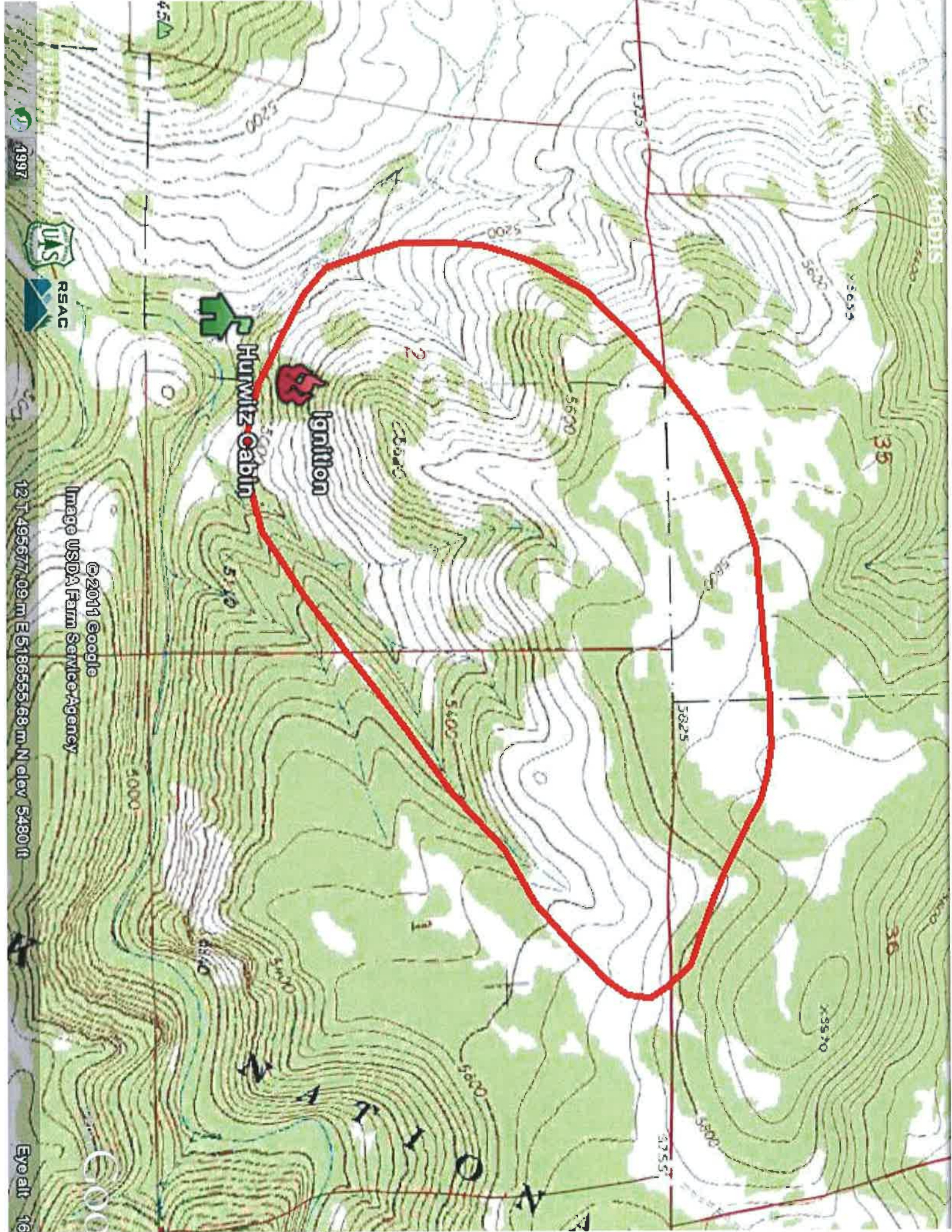
This agreement and the apportionment described are our best judgments of fair and equitable agency cost responsibilities.

USFS – Lewis and Clark National Forest
204 West Folsom
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Signature: Carol Hatfield Date: _____
Carol Hatfield, District Ranger

MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Central Land Office
8001 North Montana
Helena, MT 59602

Signature: Garry Williams Date: 6/8/12
Garry Williams, Area Manager



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Image USDA Farm Service Agency
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Legend

 Fire Perimeter

Ownership by Owner Type

OWNER

 Bureau of Land Management

 Private Lands

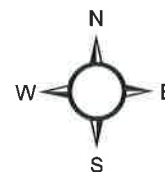
 State Lands

 US Forest Service

 Administrative Boundary

8/29/2011

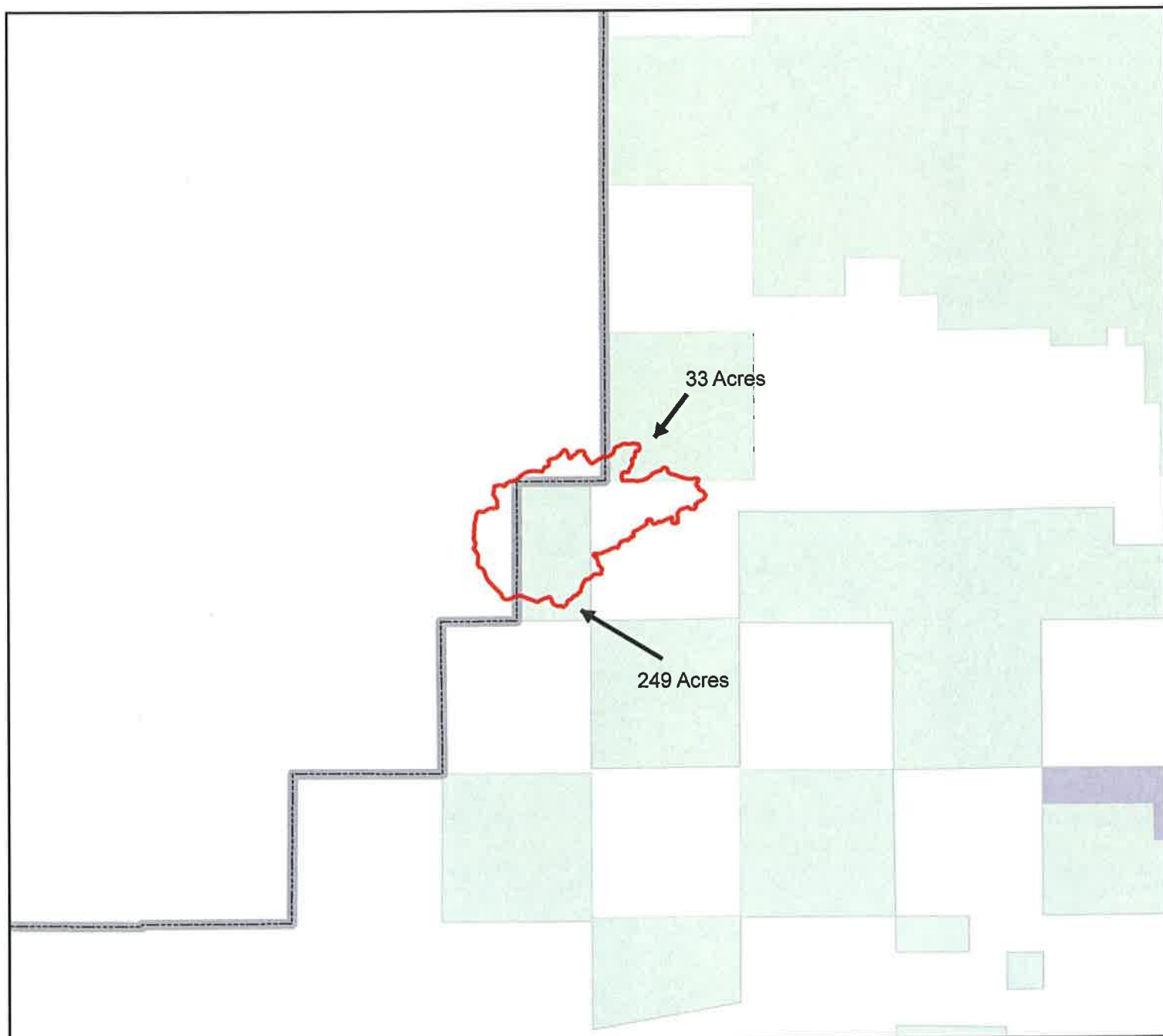
Elk Park Fire
600 Acres GPS
LCNF - WSSRD



600 Acres Fire Peri 8/2//2011

33 + 249 = 282 USFS Acres

600 - 282 = 318 PVT Acres



0 0.5 1 2 Miles